General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 39

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.33 and Add.1)*]

56/76. Towards global partnerships

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, in the promotion of partnerships in the context of globalization,

Underlining the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty,

Recalling the objectives formulated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] particularly in regard to developing partnerships through the provision of greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in general so as to enable them to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty,

Stressing that efforts to meet the challenges of globalization could benefit from enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, in order to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all,

Encouraging the private sector to accept and implement the principle of good corporate citizenship, that is, bringing sustainable development principles, which are based on the three pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection, to bear on a conduct and policy that are premised on profit incentives, in conformity with national laws and regulations, and in this context drawing the attention of Member States to multi-stakeholder initiatives, in particular, the Global Compact Initiative of the Secretary-General, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, the multi-stakeholder dialogue process of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force,

Recalling the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policy-making,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

Underlining the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, shall serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and make concrete contributions to the realization of the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and their reviews, in particular in the area of development and the eradication of poverty, and shall be undertaken in a manner that maintains the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization,

Emphasizing that all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, can contribute in several ways to addressing the obstacles confronted by developing countries in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustainable development, and to the realization of the development goals of the United Nations through, inter alia, financial resources, access to technology, management expertise, and support for programmes, including through the reduced pricing of drugs, where appropriate, for the prevention, care and treatment of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other diseases,

Underlining the fact that the resources contributed by the relevant partners, in particular the private sector, should be a complement to, not a substitute for, governmental resources,

Taking into account ideas expressed in the report of the Secretary-General of 27 March 2000, entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century",[2] with regard to enhanced cooperation with the private sector,

Recalling its resolution 55/215 of 21 December 2000,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[3] and its numerous valuable examples of cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, which have contributed and should continue to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization, in particular in the pursuit of development and the eradication of poverty;

2. *Stresses* that the principles and approaches that govern such partnerships and arrangements should be built on the firm foundation of United Nations purposes and principles, as set out in the Charter, and invites the United Nations system to continue to adhere to a common approach to partnership which, without imposing undue rigidity in partnership agreements, includes the following principles: common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner of the United Nations, mutual benefit and mutual respect, accountability, respect for the modalities of the United Nations, striving for balanced representation of relevant partners from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and not compromising the independence and neutrality of the United Nations system in general and the agencies in particular;

3. *Stresses also* the need for international cooperation to strengthen the participation of enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, business associations, foundations and non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular in partnerships with the United Nations system;

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[2] A/54/2000.

[3] A/56/323.

4. *Stresses further* the need for Member States further to discuss partnerships and to consider, in appropriate intergovernmental consultations, ways and means to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, inter alia, from the developing countries, to give them greater opportunities to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of relevant partners, in particular the private sector, on how to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, containing proposals of modalities for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Towards global partnerships".

84th plenary meeting
11 December 2001